

Tragedy of Women's Rights under the Taliban

In that fateful day of the Taliban takeover in August 2021, March 23, women's rights took a severe blow in Afghanistan. The violations came quick. March 21, Taliban announced girls' secondary schools will reopen on March 23. March 23, Taliban announced girls' secondary schools will remain closed until compliant with Islamic law. March 25, Taliban began blocking women from air travel without a male family member. March 27, Taliban issued new rules banning women from parks in Kabul four days a week. Tragedy upon tragedy struck the country and the world, for the most part, only watched. Atefa, a 16-year-old girl from Afghanistan said "For Afghan girls, the earth is unbearable, and the sky is unreachable." the morning that the Taliban announced — to the despair of schoolgirls, parents, and Afghans worldwide — that girls' secondary schools would remain closed until policies and school uniforms followed "principles of Islamic law and Afghan culture.". Atefa and her friends were sent home after a short visit to their school. "Everyone at school had tears in their eyes," she said. The worst of all, is that there *are* multiple attempts at protest within Afghanistan amidst all these events. But sadly, when Afghani girls protest, the international community claps, when the Taliban strikes at the rights of women, they merely condemn and when women suffer awful fates like kidnapping or worse, they simply stay silent. The Taliban's restrictions on girls' education are largely the same as when they ruled in 1996-2001. The excuses for closing girls' schools are disingenuous: the goal is to block girls from studying indefinitely. It's the same pattern as in the late 1990s; pretextual excuses, promises, betrayals, lies, new promises, more lies. The outside world should help Afghan girls make the earth bearable and the sky reachable.